

speculate about the first recipe. Each of the copies would be quite similar — and they would all be good, but it would be difficult to know which was most like the original.

This illustrates one of the problems in the composition of the Bible. We do not have the original pages written by the authors and must be content with copies. Sometimes these copies disagree in minor details, and students are perplexed. "If," they say, "God gave the Word and men only had to keep it, how do we account for these changes? Is it possible that these changes are so great that we do not have an accurate copy of the original work?" Specifically the problem is: Why is there disagreement about wording in the Bible? If God composed it, why are not all copies identical? Grandmother's pie recipe demonstrates how such a thing could come to pass, and in the Scriptures there are some comparable illustrations.

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Jer. 10:18 shows one way in which different wording developed. The English Bible (King James Version) reads: "Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find it so." The Hebrew text simply ends with the expression "that they will find"; and the English words "it so," which are not part of the text, are added for clarity. The Lord is talking about the captivity, and it is hard to understand what is meant by "they will find" unless one adds the "it so" of the KJV. In this case it means they will learn that God will do as He has said.

Men translating this verse long ago had the same problem in understanding. They did exactly what the English translators have done: they interpreted it and included their interpretation in the